

REMARKS

I. Formalities

Claims 1-3, 5-11, 22, and 24-26 remain in the subject patent application. Claims 1, 5, 6, 22, and 24 are amended and claims 4 and 23 are canceled herein. Claims 12-21 were canceled in an earlier paper. No claims are added herein. Claim 1 was amended by incorporating into it the limitations of claim 4. Claim 22 was amended by incorporating into it the limitations of claim 23. Claims 5 and 24 were amended to change their dependencies away from a canceled claim. Claim 6 was amended simply to correct a minor typographical error therein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added herein.

II. Remarks Directed to the Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 4, 5, 23, and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but were identified by the Office Action as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant thanks the examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 22 by incorporating into them, respectively, the limitations of claims 4 and 23, and has then canceled claims 4 and 23. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 22 are in condition for allowance, as are all claims depending from either of claims 1 and 22.

III. Remarks Directed to the Prior Art Made of Record and Not Relied Upon

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is thought to neither show nor disclose, teach, or suggest at least one limitation of each of the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all of the pending claims.

No fees are believed to be due in connection with this Response. However, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 50-0221.

If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of this application, Applicant invites Examiner Smoot to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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